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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic regarding the large-scale offensive of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia in the Fizuli district of the Azerbaijani Republic, adopted on 6 March 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement dated 6 March 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

On 2 March 1994, the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, at the invitation of the Russian mediator, sent his representative to Moscow in order to conduct negotiations on a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict with participation by the Russian Federation. However, neither the representatives of the Republic of Armenia nor the representatives of the Armenian community in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic came to Moscow during the agreed dates to participate in the negotiation process, thereby thwarting yet another attempt by the mediator to promote the speediest cessation of military activities in the region. Such behaviour by the Armenian side clearly demonstrates the complete untenability of assertions by leaders of the Republic of Armenia about the "destructiveness and obstinacy" of Azerbaijan's position concerning the peace proposals put forward within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and by the Russian mediator.

At the same time, beginning early in the morning of 3 March 1994, armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, violating the cease-fire agreement by the parties to the conflict reflected in the Protocol signed by the Ministers of Defence of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation on 18 February 1994 in Moscow, undertook a large-scale offensive in the Fizuli district of the Azerbaijani Republic, using tanks and artillery, and also subjected the north-west districts of Azerbaijan bordering on Armenia to massive rocket and artillery shelling.

The aforementioned provocative actions by the high-handed aggressor, which are aimed at the further consolidation of his positions, seized by means of the armed aggression that the Republic of Armenia has been carrying out against the Azerbaijani Republic for six years now, and which have led to further victims among the peaceful Azerbaijani population, occurred, in accordance with a doleful tradition, at a time when the mission headed by the new Chairman of the CSCE Peace Conference in Minsk on Nagorny Karabakh, Mr. Ian Eliasson, was in the region. Thus, the Armenian side demonstrated yet again its unwillingness to use political methods to settle the conflict, abide by the norms and provisions of international law, and comply with the demands set forth in the Security Council resolutions adopted earlier on the question as well as the obligations that Armenia had assumed under the recently signed Protocol on the withdrawal of occupation forces from the seized Azerbaijani territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirms the strong commitment of the Azerbaijani Republic to a political settlement of the conflict through negotiations and places full responsibility for the breakdown in the negotiation process and the further escalation of fighting in the region on the leaders of the Republic of Armenia.

Baku, 6 March 1994